



1PW 3781

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Gilbert M. Aust et al.  
Serial No. : 09/707,445  
Reissue of U.S. Patent  
No. 5,540,706, issued  
July 30, 1996)  
Filing Date : November 6, 2000  
For : SURGICAL INSTRUMENT  
Group Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner : Michael H. Thaler  
Attorney Docket No. : A31-2047RE

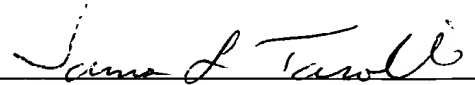
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SURRENDER OF ORIGINAL PATENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.178, Applicants in the subject  
reissue patent application hereby surrender the attached original U.S.  
Patent No. 5,618,294.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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